









Panty Party:

Continued from 1

major, said he thinks it would be a good event to have every year.

"Based on this turnout, it would be a shame if we didn't do it again," said Sunny Schartau, junior public relations major and Panhellenic Council vice president.

Josh McKenzie, junior electronic media communications major, said he believes the event is a good thing to get started and

hopes it will grow larger over the years.

"Greek life does a lot of amazing things throughout Middle Tennessee," McKenzie said. McKenzie said this shows Panhellenic Council is moving to help people outside the Greek community.

"I think [domestic violence] is a cause that gets over looked a lot," said Gretchen Jenkins, junior political science major. "I'm really glad we're focusing on this."

Schartau said she thinks the Panty Party

really got the point across concerning domestic violence, and people like to give and help out no matter who you are.

"People aren't that different from each other, so it never hurts to help one another," Schartau said.

According to Venable, around 3,000 items were donated to the Women's Domestic Violence Shelter of Murfreesboro by the end of the night. ♦

MTSU obtains grant program

By Faith Franklin  
Staff Writer

The National Science Foundation grant was awarded to MTSU in the amount of \$789,049 to fund the Energy, Earth, and Civilization Project that will work with fifth through eighth grade students and their teachers.

The program is geared toward "trying to find school kids who have a hidden scientist in them," said Kim Sadler, one of the program's directors. "Perhaps they don't have the environment that will nurture them."

The participating schools and organizations include Woodbury Grammar School, Central Middle School, Mitchell-Neilson Elementary School and the Smyrna Boys and Girls Club.

"I am excited about the grant because it will make a difference in middle school students' interest in math and science," said Linda Gilbert, associate professor for educational leadership and one of program's directors.

The project's goal is to increase student interest in science and math while helping them to apply the knowledge they acquire in the real world. The key to obtaining the goal is collaboration between the informal science activities that take place outside of school and the formal instruction inside the school.

Sadler said the program will "provide an out of school experience that will nurture a love of science and math in a non-traditional way."

The program will also help students "see [practical] applications from a person who uses science and math in the real world,"

Gilbert said. "[For example,] they will see the link between geology and the way buildings are built, and connect it to the real world and why it is important."

Hands on learning experiences will be available to 150 students during the school year, as well as a two-week summer camp and MTSU's Expanding Your Horizons event for the first two years of the grant.

While the students are undergoing the initiative, the project will also offer professional development sessions to 24 teachers along with parent-child meetings in order to help families engage in science activities that are both fun and educational.

The program does not just benefit the students; it can also positively affect MTSU and the community.

MTSU will be positively affected because the program can "serve as a feeder program. [We can] get the kids to think about higher education," said Sadler, who is also an assistant professor for biology and the assistant director for environmental education. It is also "a good indirect recruiting tool," she said.

Sadler also said the community will benefit because the program will help students to become better citizens and more informed decision makers because they "will be able to make science connections in their lives."

Research will be collected in the third year of the program to determine if the project met its goals.

MTSU's proposal was chosen out of 148 applications and is one of 16 recipients across the country for the Academy of Young Scientists initiative. ♦

SIDELINES

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2006-2007

I Nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
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(Department of Nominee)

for a

2006-2007 Outstanding Teacher Award

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Printed name of Nominator \_\_\_\_\_

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REVIEW

9:00 AM TUESDAY

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FEBRUARY 27

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Fees:  
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\$10.00 daily, first child  
\$20.00 registration fee  
\$20.00 weekly, additional children  
\$8.00 daily, additional children

Activities:  
homework help  
art, science, music, ect. activities  
themed/seasonal projects  
special guests and activities  
qualified teachers



# OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board

## Passionate sex comes from smarts not faith

According to Jeff Patton, the only type of good, healthy sex is "hot, passionate Biblical sex." A type of sex, which if accepted by the masses, would leave the entertaining "right of passage for college students, high-schoolers, even middle-schoolers" in the dust.

With the outcries of abstinence as the know all, be all and end all of sexual safety, it seems the children are not getting a comprehensible sexual education.

True, a seventh-grader with a condom is probably unaware of the consequences of sexual practices, but this is because our society has failed to teach him. The young have been deprived of education that could lead to a successful, mature relationship and great sex life.

The fact of the matter is, a college student feels "guilt, shame and regret" is because hindsight is 20-20. Children who participate in sexual practices and do not know proper procedures of safety and pleasure should feel guilt, for potential putting themselves and their partner in danger; shame, for possible poor performance; and regret, for a possibly meaningless one-night-stand.

Instead, replace those feelings and immaturity with knowledge and growth. Teach middle school students about safe sex practices, which means introducing them to contraception. For example, as "Never Been Kissed" as the lesson is, putting a condom on a banana helps teach young men the proper fit, because if applied wrong, the tiniest little prick can rupture the rubber.

Likewise, women should learn about all the varieties of contraception available: birth control, diaphragm and the female condom – same rules as male condoms apply. The major taboo issue among women's sexual practices would be the morning-after pill. This pulls in the issue on sanctity of life, abortion and religion, which lands us back at square-one.

The end result is the question of whether a comprehensible sexual education raises a problem with promiscuity. If so, what gender's promiscuity is under fire? With male enhancement products, like Viagra, advertised everywhere, men are certainly not the targets. To quote Margaret Cho, "Isn't it easier to leave the bullets out of the gun, than avoid getting shot?"

## Letter to the Editor

### Put an end to hatred based on ideology

To the Editor:

I must admit I was quite surprised with Christin Pepple's column: "Partisan politics promote indecision." [Feb. 19]. I was not too terribly impressed with her early work, but this recent column is the best I have read in your paper so far.

Pepple's thesis is that the division within our current regime will lead to stagnation and, with that, disastrous consequences. I agree with her, but likewise, think that the divisions in our government only reflect the growing divide in the nation as a whole.

This larger division can be seen on the microcosm within your Opinions section with Michael O'Flinn's rebuttal of Matthew Hurtt ("People who deserve aid not 'stealing,'" Feb. 19). Hurtt, who by evidence of his columns, is a confused "paleo-conservative," decided to ponder the age-old debate of liberalism versus socialism – I am speaking in a more economic, classical sense ["Socialist rule allows 'legal plunder,'" Feb. 15].

Hurtt's argument had obvious flaws in it, and addressing them would not have proven too difficult – and should not be for a major in sociology. Did O'Flinn logically argue against the many contradictions within Hurtt's piece? No, he did not. He simply wrote an ad hominem attack against Hurtt.

It is irrelevant to the matter at hand if you agree or disagree with what Hurtt or O'Flinn wrote. What is important for the reader to note is that a weak, quasi-illogical argument was not effectively refuted with a strong, logical argument. It was addressed with an even more illogical and ethically suspect ad hominem attack.

Is this the mechanics by which civility is to be obtained in our society? Is this our precious "democracy" in action?

It is clearly obvious that the people most Americans truly hate are, in fact, other Americans. They are not hated for superficial, cosmetic reasons as much anymore, such as race; this new era of hatred is one of ideology.

O'Flinn's rebuttal is a perfect example of the breakdown of civility that accompanies such rampant hatred. How can a nation filled with such self-hatred stand at all? Why should these people who can not stand one another be forced to live together? What is really the point of this Republic anymore?

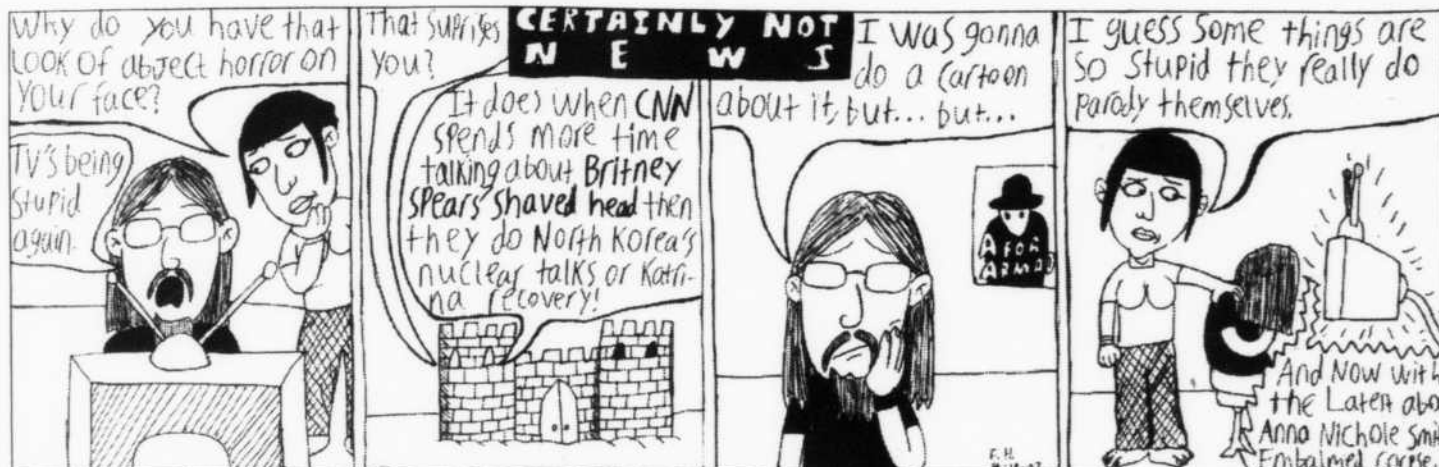
Maybe anarchy, and, with it, civil war, should spread from Iraq to the United States. Maybe that was always the logical conclusion of our "culture war" Perhaps Romulus again needs to kill his brother Remus.

Nick Zamudio  
Junior, undeclared

## Correction

Last Thursday, the article "HOPE retention rates improving" was misleading. The study revealed that 75 percent of students who earned the scholarship in 2004 will lose it by graduation this year. Also, the words "lose" and "losing" were misspelled throughout. Sidelines regrets these errors.

Additionally, anyone interested in copy editing should come by Mass Comm Room 269 to apply.



"And Friends"

Frank Hasenmueller

## PHC makes light of domestic violence

Fortunately, we are in a time of social progress where racism is regarded as a despicable plague in American culture. In addition, the efforts made by feminist to end sexism have had successful advances. However, gender inequality has not achieved similar public shame.

Past social progress has provided the current illusion of tranquility for young women and men who believe that there is no longer a need for feminism.

This leads the privileged to project feminist issues as illegitimate political concerns and feminist activism as nothing more than a public spectacle. Reason leads a person to believe that if they do not see the problem then there is not a real problem.

Men are able to delude themselves with this apathy because the political systems continue to be dominated by men. As it goes, the fish is the last one to know of the ocean. Women are able to delude themselves that feminist issues are no longer important because they simply subscribe to the very messages created by privileged oppressors as well as systematically benefiting from the hard work of feminist from the past.

Feminist issues are often regarded as frivolous pursuits because sexism itself is largely still socially acceptable by both women and men.

A recent example of how women's issues are perceived with frivolous concern was the decision by the Greek Panhellenic Council to host a so-called charitable event named "Panty Party for the Murfreesboro Domestic Violence Shelter." Naming the charity event "Panty Party" instantly creates an image in my mind of a house on Greek row with drunk frat boys running around wearing bras on their heads.

The name is a blatant mockery of the seriousness of this violent issue that affects mostly women. At one time in our demo-



One Vagina for Lady Liberty

Liz Estes  
Contributing Columnist

cratic republic women could be legally beaten by their husbands. The term domestic violence was largely created by feminist to demonstrate that the violence, sexual assault and murders of women by their partners is a legitimate crime worthy of punishment by law.

Using the gender specific term 'panty' indicates that they are aware that domestic violence largely affects women, but also demonstrates how this charitable event is not a serious enough cause to warrant an altruistic respectable name. The name sexualizes the female undergarments and represents how women's clothing, women's bodies and violence upon women's bodies is inconsequential, therefore jokes are permissible at all times.

I also keep imagining some sorority girl thinking to herself that she could just donate her unused Victoria's Secret gift card while thinking she has done her part.

The Greeks pontificate that their so-called volunteerism is not taken seriously as genuine community concern or true charity. The name of this event demonstrates this obviously coy therefore superficial regard of this criminal violence and disrespect the honorable work of the Domestic Violence shelter.

"Panty Party" represents the sexist attitudes that feminist issues and violence against women are still regarded as trivial. It begs me to ask, would they have a "Panty Party" for a homeless center or the Red

Cross? Both charitable organizations contribute the same efforts that the Domestic Violence shelter performs for families such as providing food, housing, safety and support for those escaping from domestic violence.

I called the shelter to find out what they really need because most women would agree with me that receiving new panties and bras would be the last thing on their minds after such a traumatic event. I also think that most women would rather buy their own underwear because it is such a personal, private item.

The volunteer that I spoke with said that toiletries, bath linens, school supplies and children's toys are what are needed most. Time-dated food such as milk and bread are especially important because it is difficult for the shelter to keep these items in stock. The shelter is teamed up with a few local thrift stores to provide clothing vouchers for the women to shop on their own. Donating panties, though helpful, I was informed, is not an important item to stock up on nor does it solve any immediate needs for a displaced family.

I want to thank the Greek Panhellenic Council for providing an excellent example of the sexism still exists, as well as the attitude that women's issues are trivial. I would like to express concern to the administration that governs this group directly: is this image of insincere concern and flagrant sexism a standard to promote?

The women that are brave enough to escape domestic violence have support because of the charitable work, concern and efforts of feminist activism. The survivors of domestic violence, their children, and the volunteers for the shelter deserve respect.

Liz Estes is a senior English major and has a B.A. in philosophy. She can be reached at eae2b@mtsu.edu.

## Southern successes showcase progress

Modern-day Confederate supporters routinely comment that "the South will rise again." In fact, an entire niche of neo-Confederate literature exists to support this argument; however, it seems that these authors and supporters of a risen Confederacy have ignored the fact that the South has already risen.

Not in the sense that slavery will once again darken the history of our great nation or that a pseudo-Confederate government will come into existence, but there are many facts that would support the aforementioned position.

After the horrors of Northern-imposed Reconstruction efforts in the South, the Southern economy and culture trailed advancements by the North by at least twenty years. Southern governments and societies were virtually destroyed by capitalist Northern investors looking to make a quick buck.

Rising from the remnants 130 years later, the Southern political atmosphere and economy are the strongest in the nation.

Ten presidents since the War Between the States have come from the South. In fact, Abraham Lincoln was born and raised in Kentucky. Presidential elections over the course of the last quar-



Hurtt Pride

Matthew Hurtt  
Staff Columnist

ter-century have turned their attention to the South as an important percentage of the electorate. In 2000 and 2004, the South decided that George W. Bush would serve as president.

Economically, the South has prospered over the course of the last century. More and more global industries are moving headquarters and significant portions of their companies to the South. The most notable of these industry relocations are those in the automobile industry, which has contributed to the creation of thousands of jobs in the Middle Tennessee area alone in the past 20 years.

Other facets of economic development include the across-the-board low tax rate among southern states. Several Southern states have no state income tax at all, while those states that do tax their residents at a significantly lower percentage than states in the North or out West. Northerners routinely move to

the South in an attempt to sabotage the tax structure in order to create a pseudo-Northern atmosphere. Want proof? Take a look at the Rutherford Neighborhood Alliance and see where its members lived before moving here.

Some detractors of Southern success note that the War Between the States constituted treason against the United States. For two reasons, this argument is fallacious:

Thomas Jefferson wrote, "That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

Secession, an act that found favor among many of our Founding Fathers, is not considered treasonous, according to the Declaration of Independence.

Secondly, if one followed the logic of those who argue the South committed treason, then the actions of the Founding Fathers during the Revolutionary War were also treasonous. In fact, it was

Benjamin Franklin who noted, "We must hang together, or surely we shall all hang separately."

The dictionary definition of the word treason suggests a violent act to overthrow one's government. Southern states passed resolutions of secession in their respective state legislatures. If passing such resolutions were treasonous, Democrats in the House and Senate today would all be imprisoned for their treasonous non-binding resolutions on the War in Iraq.

The point is, people on both sides of this issue are misguided. As previously stated, those dogmatic Dixie defenders who dream of a distant future where the South once again displays its decadence cannot see that Southern success is now.

Not only that, but those detractors of Dixie who look upon the South with such disdain do not recognize that Southern success has already come about in the ways previously mentioned.

The South will continue to prosper, and soon every American will sing, "I wish I was in Dixie, Hooray! Hooray!"

Matthew Hurtt is a junior liberal arts major and can be reached at mch2x@mtsu.edu.

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# FEATURES

## ‘Hot, passionate biblical sex’

### Christian ‘sexpert’ stresses monogamy, commitment

By Becca Cook  
Staff Writer

Many people would love to consider themselves a sex expert. There are very few, though, that can actually call themselves one.

For Jeff Patton, the name came from an unexpected source: a religious organization on a college campus.

Patton, a teaching pastor at Fellowship Bible Church in Murfreesboro, has been speaking about sex to college students for almost 20 years. His nickname, “the Sexpert,” came about when he was speaking at the University of Kentucky.

“I was speaking at the Campus Crusade for Christ meeting,” Patton says, “when they promoted my speaking engagement. They came up with the name ‘Sexpert’ to describe who I was. From that point on, it stuck. I took a poster home to show my wife, and she laughed about it.”

Patton will be speaking at the weekly Cru meeting on campus about love, sex and relationships.

“I’ll be asking several questions and talking about who created sex,” Patton says. “I’ll also be talking about the three purposes of sex and the consequences of sex outside of marriage.”

Patton became a Christian while in college at East Carolina University.

“I came to Christ as a sophomore playing football for East Carolina. From that point on, I never had sex again until I was married,” Patton says.

The decision not to have sex was never easy, but Patton gives all the credit to his faith on accomplishing it.

“I understand that, unless you have some convictions about what is true and right, it’s hard [to abstain from sex], and you won’t make that choice,” Patton says. “A lot of the time I hear guilt, shame and regret from college students, but no one talks about it. All they talk about is how great sex is.”

You won’t find a cookie cutter version of sex in Patton’s talk. He’s not afraid to talk about orgasms or erections, or to talk about sex in a way that’s frank and uninhibited.

“God designed for sex to be a beautiful gift,” he says. “He made sex, so he knows what orgasms are; he knows what body parts are. He doesn’t blush when we enjoy our lifetime partner in marriage.”

Patton wholeheartedly believes that sex is God’s creation, but he thinks society has misconstrued its true purpose. Instead, sex has become entertainment, a right of passage for college students, high-schoolers, even middle-schoolers.

“I think that sex sells in our culture,” Patton says. “It speaks a language we all understand. However, I think our culture has sold sex short. We talk a lot about sex in our culture. Everywhere you go, it’s there in your face.”

To Patton, today’s culture has allowed too much interpretation of the definition of “right” and “wrong.” Relativism prevails, giving people too much wiggle-room for deciding the right path.

“Relativism, meaning there are no rights or wrongs, is key in our culture today,” Patton says. “Everyone does what they

feel is right in their own eyes. There’s no absolute truth. But even though people say they believe that, that’s not how they’d like to be treated. People think that, if they think [something is] right, then it’s right for them. But if I walk in your house and steal your TV, you’re gonna start screaming.”

Patton has been hitting the road for half of his life to speak to college students about the biblical perspective of sex.

“God has been deemed by our culture as a big ‘no-no’ on sex,” Patton says. “I think hot, passionate biblical sex the way scripture describes it is certainly the best sex. I think college students are being sold short and are making choices that will ultimately destroy their lives. I love to speak on it in biblical terms because no one else is willing to.”

The never-ending debate over the need for sex education in schools continues to gain steam. According to Patton, though, the growing pervasiveness of sex is at the root of society’s problem.

“Our culture says that if you feel like having sex, go ahead. Pass out condoms to middle-schoolers and even elementary schoolers. In the last 30 to 40 years, people have decided that, with sex, you do what you feel; and yet, they haven’t talked about the consequences.”

To Patton, truly safe sex only comes with a monogamous, lifetime relationship – like the one he has with his wife of 21 years, the kind of sex “God truly intended.”

“God intended for pleasure with one man, one woman,”



Photo courtesy of Jeff Patton | Graphic by Nathan Lowry  
The “Sexpert,” Jeff Patton, and his wife of 21 years exemplify what Patton believes is God’s true design: a lifelong, monogamous relationship.

Patton says. “In that context, if you have sex with one [person] for a lifetime, you will never get a sexually transmitted disease. Consequences only come with going outside the nature of sex’s design.”

Although images of sex are everywhere – everywhere we turn, it seems – Patton believes the “hottest” sex isn’t commercialized or in-your-face.

“I am proposing that the best, hottest sex in the world is with one man and one woman in a lifelong relationship. It’s free of guilt, shame, baggage, worry,

consequences and you learn each other. I’ve been married 21 years next June, and I’m telling you that getting to learn a woman that intimately is absolutely mind-boggling.”

Jeff Mackie, a senior organizational communication major, has heard Patton speak before.

“I think he is an incredible speaker who can relate to you whoever you are,” Mackie says. “He is motivating and very humorous.”

Mackie and his team put together the Cru weekly meeting and are excited about Patton coming to speak.

“The meeting is going to have a really fun atmosphere,” Mackie says. “We’ll have videos, question and answer time for Patton and even some cool things to give away to visitors who come.”

“The Sexpert” will speak Feb. 22 at 8 p.m. in the Learning Resource Center Room 221. ♦

## Lights, camera, action

### MTSU alumnus in charge of red carpet

By Rangebar Merani  
Staff Writer

From a small-town lifestyle in Tennessee, Garry Hood emerged into the world of lights, cameras and action. He remains in Franklin, hopping on a plane every time he’s needed in Los Angeles.

And Hood’s red carpet expertise is in high-demand.

An MTSU alumnus, Hood will be working as the Head Stage Manager for the 79th annual Academy Awards this Sunday at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood.

Hood has worked on over 20 Academy Award shows and has over 30 years of production experience. He has worked as a stage manager for almost every major television and live event produced in the United States and abroad.

“As a stage manager, I’m basically in charge of anything and everything that happens on stage,” Hood says. “The scenery, the moving of scenery, rehearsal, the lights, the staging – basically taking all the dreams and wishes of the producers and directors and make them all happen.”

Not only has Hood worked with the Academy Awards, he’s contributed to the Emmy Awards, Tony Awards, Grammy Awards, MTV Movie Awards, BET Awards and the CMA Awards in Nashville.

“Nowadays, I do more live shows,” Hood says. “That’s the other fun part, the adrenaline you get doing a live show. You get the rehearsal time and everything, and then boom, you get to go live on the air and do it.”

Hood has also worked on events other than award shows such as the opening and closing ceremonies for the Olympics, Super Bowl halftime shows and

even presidential inaugurations.

“I think I’ve probably worked with most everybody you can imagine, be it an actor or a musician,” Hood says. “I’ve done every inauguration since Reagan and I’ve been able to meet and spend time with those presidents. Kings and queens, I’ve done a lot in Europe.”

Hood, a Murfreesboro native, graduated from MTSU in 1977 with a degree in Mass Communications. He now lives in Franklin and still comes down to Murfreesboro to visit his parents or to stop by campus for a football game or to talk to a class.

“MTSU is a great school. I’m very proud to say that I attended there and graduated there,” Hood says. “The professors and the department were able to give real world experience which made for great training and great education. I was a manager for the basketball team and I recorded the practices and the games. I had a wonderful experience at MTSU.”

Lately, Hood has been hard at work getting everything set up for this year’s Academy Awards. Whenever he’s needed in Los Angeles, he just hops on the next flight out.

“It takes a lot of preparation, a lot of meetings, a lot working on the script and many rundowns to prepare and get ready to go on camera,” says Hood. “I have a team of 12 other stage managers with me to help ex-

cute everything.”

He may be busy with the Academy Awards, but Hood also runs his own television and live event production company called Garry Hood Productions.

Not only does he work with major clients, but he also does work for independent clients trying to put on a show or an event.

“With my particular position in production, I get [face-time] with everybody,” Hood says. “I’m talking to the electricians, producers, directors, the stars, everybody. All that information has to flow through me and then I pass it on to everyone else. It’s a great job, a real people job and that’s the best part.” ♦



Photo by Matthew Adair | Production Manager

## Nearly horoscopes

### Aries

March 21 - April 19

It doesn’t matter that you cried. Or that they laughed at you when you cried. Or that your crying turned into a full on tantrum. None of this ringing a bell? It will soon.

### Taurus

April 20 - May 20

You know that new, really annoying song “What Goes Around Comes Around” by Justin Timberlake? Well, rumor has it that you were his divine inspiration. It’s going to come back around, all right, and hard.

### Gemini

May 21 - June 21

Just like your mom used to tell you, always reach for the stars. Just remember that the stars are trillions of miles away. It’s only a metaphor, and you’ll probably never reach them.

### Cancer

June 22 - July 22

Drive your car with caution this week, because one of two things will happen: you’ll run over an animal – could be a squirrel, could be an innocent puppy – or you’ll get a DUI – avoiding alcohol won’t help, they’ll slap one on you regardless. Maybe the best advice is to stay indoor – or on a bike.

### Leo

July 23 - August 22

You will find the love of your life this week. Fireworks will go off, trumpets will sound and two hearts will magically become one. By next week, though, he or she will be gone – either that or it turns out your love is really a 70-year-old postal worker named Steve. How did you not see that one coming?

### Virgo

August 23 - Sept. 22

This week, you’ll rediscover your favorite old Hanson CD. MmmBop yourself crazy, but once you tire yourself out, go back and listen to the lyrics carefully. Replay them backwards if necessary. You’re bound to uncover Satanic messages. No wonder you’ve been so off all these years.

### Libra

Sept. 23 - Oct. 23

You know what happened to Anna Nicole Smith? Well, you’re in danger of suffering a very similar fate. It’s completely avoidable, though, just make sure to steer clear of anything Anna Nicole Smith-ish. Should be easy – no drugs, romancing 90-year-olds, breast augmentation or clown makeup.

### Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 21

Valentine’s Day has come and gone, so emerge from seclusion. Throw away the chocolates and ice cream, the cheesy romantic movies and mountains of balled-up tissues scattered around your bedroom. It’s time to move on. Or, you know, time to switch to low-fat ice cream and kung-fu movies.

### Sagittarius

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

We all know that fortune cookies contain ancient wisdom. Sometime this week, gorge yourself full of them. If you can eat 100 cookies, each of the well-wishes they contain will come true.

### Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

This week, you’ll be invited to join a Facebook group called “People who hate people who can’t keep their hand down in class.” You’ll be flattered by the invite, but beware – it was created in your honor. Don’t raise your hand just to hear your own voice, don’t regurgitate answers in the book and pass them off as your own “brilliance” and don’t chase the professor out of the room in hopes of getting to know him/her better.

### Aquarius

Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Britney Spears looks pretty crappy. Admit it. Sometime this week, a very persuasive stranger will hand you some clippers and convince you to follow in her footsteps. Avoid strangers with clippers at all costs.

### Pisces

Feb. 19 - March 20

Fortune will smile upon you. It’ll smile upon you in that passive-aggressive, annoying way that Fortune smiles, though, and you’ll know it’s only trying to be nice.



# SPORTS

## MT seeks end to four-game skid against Troy

By Wesley Mize

Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders basketball team looks to end its four-game losing streak on Thursday at Troy.

The Trojans beat Middle by a score of 71-57 in January.

MT led that game at halftime but let the lead slip away in the second half.

"We were up by eight the last time we played them and had a couple chances to stop them, but we gave up offensively on rebounds," said Blue Raiders head coach Kermit Davis. "We can't give them second opportunities to score if we want to beat them this time."

The Trojans (11-16, 6-10) have five players that average double figures in scoring.

O'Darien Basset leads the team with 14.9 points per game, but according to Davis, several players on the Trojan roster are capable of putting up impressive offensive numbers.

"They've got six guys that are capable of scoring 20 points," Davis said. "It's really difficult to prepare for them because they are all so good. Hopefully we'll be able to tell early on who's hitting for them and we'll be able to make the necessary adjustments."

Boo Ramsey is one of the potential 20 point scorers that Davis refers to.

Ramsey averages 11 points per game, but his ability to score from the perimeter is what makes him a dangerous offensive weapon.

"The last time we played them, we spent the whole time trying to hold our lead only to have Ramsey give them the lead by himself," Davis said. "He has unlimited range so we have to make sure not to give him an open look no matter how far away from the

basket he is."

The Blue Raiders (12-15, 7-9) were out-rebounded by 11 in their last meeting with Troy.

Troy averages five less rebounds than its opponents per game for the season.

"Troy doesn't out-rebound many teams, yet they out-rebounded us big time," Davis said. "When you give that good of an offensive team so many chances to score, it's nearly impossible to win. We have to limit their chances, otherwise they'll make us pay for it."

The Blue Raiders currently sit in fourth place in the Sun Belt eastern division standings.

Troy is last in the East but only one game behind MT.

This game will make a major impact on Middle's seed in the upcoming conference tournament.

"We can finish fourth, or we could finish 12th in our league," Davis said. "There are several other teams that can do the same thing. It is Troy's senior night, so the fans should be pretty loud and into the game. It's a big game for us. We are really going to have to play our best to win the game."

Middle has only one regular season game remaining after the Troy game.

The coaching staff is making sure the Blue Raiders take care of business in the regular season before they shift their focus to the tournament.

"We don't even talk about the tournament," Davis said. "We just try to get better everyday in practice. We can't worry about where we're going to play or what our seed will be in the tournament because the league is so even, and teams will be jumping positions in the last couple of games."

This is the fifth meeting between Troy and MT. The Blue Raiders are currently 2-2 against Troy. Troy won their previous meeting 71-57 in Murfreesboro.

Saturday's game against FAU has seeding implications with Middle Tennessee possible claiming the fourth seed in the Sun Belt Conference tournament.

The Owls are currently in a three-way tie with North Texas and Arkansas State for fourth in the SBC.

MT came from behind to beat the Owls 72-68 earlier in the season in Boca Raton considering the Owls held a halftime lead.

Carlos Monroe, DeAndre Rice and Paul Graham all scored double digits against the Raiders, with the Owls hitting 37 percent of their field goals. MT hit 62 percent from their field goals in the game.

Kevin Kanaskie moved into 10th place above former Raider Jimmy Martin on the all-time assist list with 236. He needs on 14 more to tie Greg Joyner for ninth place. Kanaskie currently has 162 assists on the season, which highest single-season total with the Raiders.

Desmond Yates scored 21 points against FIU for his fourth 20 point game of his career. Yates scored 23 points against ASU on back on Jan. 17.

The Blue Raiders will be spending their time trying to contain Monroe, Rice and Graham considering the Raiders have been struggling.

The Blue Raiders will try to avoid being jumped by Troy on Thursday and hopefully continue to knock-off the remaining at the end of their schedule with FAU.

Tip-off for the FAU game is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Saturday night. ♦

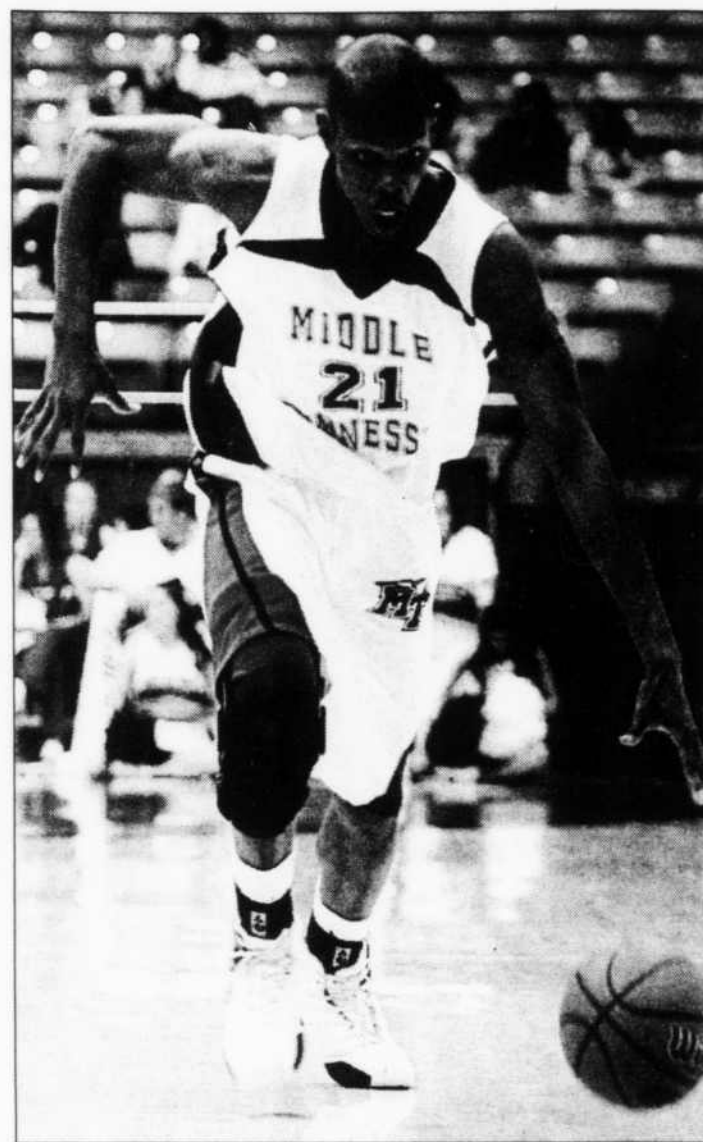


Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

Freshman Donaries Hair runs down the court on a break-away.

## Ladies want to end season undefeated



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

Junior Starr Orr gets set to take a shot against Louisiana-Lafayette earlier this season. MT has swept the Ragin' Cajuns in conference play.

By Cody Gibson

Staff Writer

The last week of the regular season holds a lot of questions for the Lady Raiders. Can they run the table, and finish the Sun Belt season undefeated? Where will the Lady Raiders be playing come tournament time?

Yet, the biggest obstacle to overcome for the Blue Raiders is not an opponent. The Lady Raiders must face the pressure that goes with being ranked the highest in school history and carrying a winning streak into the final week of the season.

Coach Rick Insell believes that this week will go a long way in determining how this season ends.

"I think it is important that we win both of these games," Insell said. "Looking at the next two games, we should win both of them. Our players have done a good job of meeting the challenges put in front of them. We don't need to allow one of them to slip up and beat us. Right now, we are forcing the NCAA selection committee to look at us as a higher seed."

The Lady Raiders travel to Troy and face the Lady Trojans on Thursday night. The Lady

Trojans are 12-14 on the season including a 5-11 record in the conference.

The Trojans, led offensively by Amy Lewis and Kylie Morris, are averaging around 15 points per game this season.

On the season, the team is averaging 61.7 points per game, while allowing 62.8. The Lady Trojans have been very strong shooting the ball, with a field goal percentage of over 43 percent.

Yet, they are averaging 17 turnovers per game, and that has been the key to their losing record.

The Lady Raiders should be able to continue their pressing ways, and force even more turnovers.

Saturday, Middle Tennessee hosts Florida Atlantic for their final game of the regular season.

Saturday is senior day, and the team will honor Chrissy Givens, Krystle Horton, Whitney Tate and Carden Cobb.

Florida Atlantic has been harshly welcomed to the Sun Belt this season as the Lady Owls have compiled a 5-23 record, after winning the Atlantic Sun last season. Florida Atlantic

See Lady Raiders, 7



I am Sportacus

J. Owen Shipley  
Staff Columnist

## Do you want to know a secret?

I'm going to tell you guys a secret but you have to promise not to tell anyone. I mean it, you have to pinky-swear on this. Are you listening? Good. I want to share something you might not have heard during Customs, something I know you didn't find out on Pitchforkmedia.com, and I'm pretty sure you couldn't have learned from a Victor Furious flyer.

MT has a basketball team. Well, actually we have two. Shhhh. I know. I don't want the wrong people to find out, but wait. There's more. One of them is actually really, really good. No offense to the men's squad, but the women are playing the best season in MT history.

The Lady Raiders have quietly amassed a record breaking winning streak and earned themselves a No. 17 ranking in the AP Coaches Poll for a second consecutive week.

The weird thing is, even though not a lot of people are talking about this team – *The Tennessean* isn't even pretending to cover them – there is an underground network of fans that have braved the weather and the free admission to put MT's attendance levels in the top 25 in the nation.

Its weird isn't it? It's like we have our own Fight Club. I figured the paper is the safest way to get this message out – since only my mom and two of my professors read this column anyways – to a select few people.

Do you like to yell at referees every single time they miss or make a call? Do you have an abundance of blue face paint? Could you heckle the 19-year-old point guard of a school with a losing record as if the very game depended on it? Even if the Raiders were winning by 35 points? Have you ever tried to get treatment for March Madness? Do you live anywhere near Murfreesboro and have any plans on Saturday?

If so, we want you to join our club. We put a lot of thought into and we've decided you have

what it takes. There is only one problem. If you want to be a part of this thing you need to hurry. You only have one chance left and it is this Saturday at the Murphy Center.

The final home game of the season should be a wild affair. It may be the last game, but a big win would help a lot with momentum in the post season. From week one everyone knew that this season would be all about March. It's been 90 days since the Lady Raiders lost a game. Only undefeated Duke, who just beat Maryland 69-57 over the weekend, has a longer winning streak at 28.

Saturday will also be the last regular season game for MT's vaunted senior class. Watching Chrissy Givens and Krystle Horton pass the mantle to junior Amber Holt, should be exciting enough to pack the Glass House, but if it takes more than that to pry you away from Facebook, consider these numbers.

MT has won the last 30 games in a row at home versus Sun Belt foes. MT started the season with a top five RPI and even though some of the top teams on their schedule have stumbled a bit, their strength of schedule still ranks them in the top 20 nationally. Chrissy Givens will move into second place on the games played list when she hits the court on Saturday. Head Coach Rick Insell just broke the record for best record in first two years as coach with the win against FIU last week. This squad was also the first in MT history to beat a Top 10 opponent when they defeated Georgia behind a 21-point performance by Georgia native Amber Holt.

Most importantly, despite all the numbers and the fact that MT has dominated the Sun Belt, this team is not happy with their performance as of late. Everyone from Insell down has talked consistently about needing to take things to

See Sportacus, 7

## Chrissy Givens: Lady Raiders' defensive machine

By Cody Gibson

Staff Writer

This season has been a dream come true for Chrissy Givens. She has received numerous accolades before and during the season, including the preseason Sun Belt player of the year, three-time player of the week and named to the Wade Award Watch List.

Her season average of 21 points, three steals, five assists and five rebounds is astonishing given the fact she is also shooting over 51 percent from the field.

Givens has been characterized by a number of coaches as "the best defensive player they have ever seen."

Coach Rick Insell calls her one of the best people he has ever coached. Even with all of the success, Givens said that this season, the team has even exceeded her expectations.

"What we've done so far is something I never expected us to do," she said. "I think the best moments are yet to come. We want to break all of the records we can along the way. Everything that has happened has been like a dream. Me and

Krystle [Horton] have been like Cinderella and have been here since the beginning."

Givens, as well as the team, will not be satisfied unless they can complete their ultimate, regular-season goal of going undefeated and winning the Sun Belt Conference tournament.

The undefeated season would break the record for conference wins by Louisiana Tech.

This is just one of the many records the Lady Raiders look to smash this season. Givens believes these goals have helped keep the team hungry.

"We want to go undefeated during the regular season," Givens said. "We want to win the tournament. That's another goal. Then, next thing is to definitely get to the sweet sixteen. For some reason, I have this great feeling we are going to the Final Four, and we are going to be Cinderellas this season."

Along with her strong play on the court Givens has been a good role model for her team off the court. Givens graduated with a 3.89 grade point average and

See Givens, 7

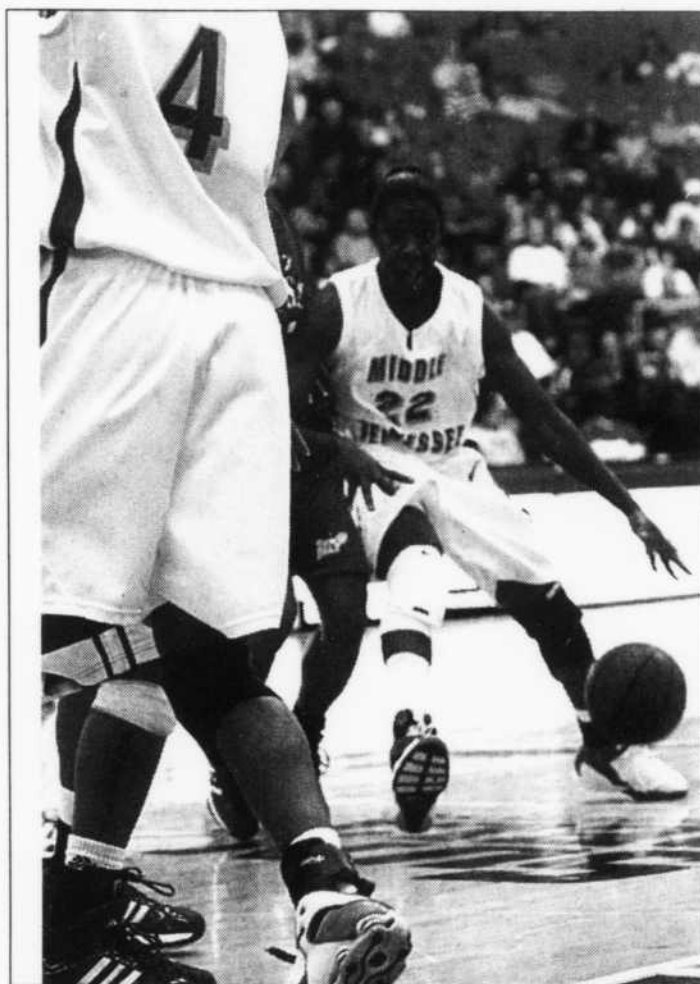


Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

Senior Chrissy Givens' coaches call her the best defensive player they have ever seen.



Track competes in Sun Belt Championships

By Brendon Henson  
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee track team heads into the 2007 Sun Belt Conference Indoor Championships in Jonesboro, Ark. this Saturday. Arkansas State will be hosting the meet, with 17 men's and women's events scheduled over two days. This is the final indoor meet of the season before the NCAA Indoor Championships in March. The championships will feature other Sun Belt teams including Troy (women only), South Alabama, UALR, North Texas, Arkansas-Little Rock, Florida International, Florida Atlantic (women only), Louisiana-Lafayette, Louisiana-Monroe and Western Kentucky. Last year, the MT men's team took first place in the championships and hopes to repeat this year. They have won five of the past six indoor titles.

On the women's side, Western Kentucky finished first last year for their first ever SBC indoor title. Senior Orlando Reid, the 200m champ from last year is set to defend his title. Senior thrower James Thomas also hopes to close out the Indoor season on a good note. "This is my last indoor meet. It sucks, it just sucks. I want to keep throwing," Thomas said. "I am hoping for a 1-and-1 in the shot and weight throw." Thomas is currently ranked first in the conference in the weight throw and second in the shot put. For him, the championships are merely another meet. "It's no different, I pretty much go out there and do it. I treat it just like a regular meet." Assistant coach Laetitia Florimond is confident in the team's abilities. "I believe 100 percent that they will do well," Florimond said. "We're pretty good in

jumps and throws. The girls have gotten their act together. For the guys, it's really open and we've got a very, very good chance of winning." The MT runners face some serious competition from schools such as South Alabama. "South Alabama is really strong in distance running," Florimond said. "We're a little weaker in that area, so we'll really have to perform." Freshman MeLyn Thompson will be participating in her first Sun Belt Conference Championships this Saturday. For her, it's an opportunity to improve for the outdoor season. "I can always get better, but I think I'm well prepared for the meet," Thompson said. "I actually prefer the outdoor season, but this is a chance to get a little more experience." Thompson is currently ranked second in the conference in the shot put.

Fellow freshman Britney Cox is coming off a lat injury and hopes to be ready for the Championships. "Rehab was tough, I was sore and it was painful, but I really can't complain too much," Cox said. "As far as my lat goes I'm at about 100 percent, and at about 60 to 70 percent with my throws. I've got a really good chance of posting first in the weight throw." Cox is first in the Sun Belt in the weight throw and third in the shot put. The remaining Blue Raiders that did not have a chance to get into the NCAA Indoor Championships. Will have another chance to enter t at the NCAA Last Chance Meet in Ames, Iowa. Middle Tennessee wraps up their Indoor season with the Sun Belt Championships this weekend in Jonesboro, Ark. on Feb. 24-25 the meet starts at 10 a.m. ♦

Lady Raiders: Final game

Continued from 7

double-digits in scoring, Mistoria Brown. Brown also leads the team in rebounding with 5.5 per game. Florida Atlantic has struggled shooting the ball this season hitting only 35 percent from the field. Defensively, the Lady Owls aren't much better as they allowed 45 percent shooting. The Blue Raiders are No. 27 in the nation in attendance at 4,061 after 14 home games this season.

Middle Tennessee is first in the SBC in attendance with Western Kentucky with 2,252 and Arkansas State 1,880. The record-setting mark of 10,010 for the game against Maryland at the beginning of the season. The game with Tennessee brought in 12,363 to watch MT receive their 3rd loss of the season for the Lady Raiders. Not a lot has gone right for Florida Atlantic this season, and Middle Tennessee isn't likely to do them any favors. Tip-off for senior day is 3 p.m. on Feb. 24. ♦

Givens: Defensive machine

Continued from 7

received her degree in criminal justice. Right now, Givens is pursuing her Masters of Sociology and hopes someday to have a job with the government. Givens said she believes her future is going to be basketball first, then she is going to use her degree to the fullest. "I'm working to get my master's," she said. "I want to play in the WNBA, and I want to play overseas. I feel like I can take care of it on the

court. I got about six or seven more years of basketball left in me. Then, I'm going to come back and finish that degree. Hopefully, I can go work in the FBI somewhere." Givens clearly has a bright future as she is projected to be a first rounder in the upcoming WNBA draft. Givens was voted First Team Academic All-District IV by ESPN Magazine. She is well in line for a number of post-season awards, and in the coming weeks for Givens to collect. ♦

Sportacus: Lady Raiders rock

Continued from 7

the next level and tighten up their game in several areas. If they can do that, MT should be able to make a pretty exciting run in the NCAA tournament this year. So come on down and watch the final game on Saturday. But please, please don't tell anyone. I don't want the secret

to get out. It's too much fun for those of us that know. Lets just enjoy our little secret for as long as we can because by this time next year EVERYONE will know who the Lady Raiders are. ♦ J. Owen Shipley is a senior(ish) English Major at MT and can be reached at Myspace.com/lamsportacus.

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# MT baseball falls in double-header to JSU

By Colby George

Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee had a tough Sunday afternoon against Jacksonville State, losing both games of the double header. Middle lost the first game 7-6, and later lost the second game 3-0.

Jacksonville State snapped a five-game losing streak against MT by winning both games on Sunday.

The Raiders held strong behind two home runs and three RBI's by Adam Warren. The Raiders then lost the game by a wild throw to first by shortstop Matt Ray, which allowed the Brett Smith of the Gamecocks to score all the way from second to win the game.

Tyler Copeland started the game pitching three full innings and allowing five earned runs. Brett Reilly added four innings with two strikeouts, three walks and no earned runs.

The Raiders were also helped at the plate by Zach Barrett and Myles Ervin, both of which went three for four and scored a run.

Besides Ervin Barrett, Warren Kendrick was the only other Blue Raider with a hit.

JSU scored in the second, third, fourth, sixth and eighth innings.

The Blue Raiders then had their second game of the double header end with a 3-0 loss.

The Raiders were only able to have five batters reach base successfully while in the early game they had 10 hits.

MT started Nick Marrs who pitched four innings with two strikeouts and three earned runs.

Josh Anderson then came in and pitched two scoreless innings.

Neither team had hot bats, but Jacksonville State was able to put a rally together in the second inning where they scored two runs off of Brian Piazza's double to left center.

JSU then scored one more run in the fourth on a RBI single by second-baseman Bert Smith.

Jacksonville State started with Ben Tootle, who pitched five shutout innings with two strikeouts and no walks. Clark Jinks then came in relief for two more shutout innings with three strikeouts and no walks to earn the save.

The Blue Raiders were starting to put it together at the end of the seventh, but because of the double header, only seven innings were played, which caused them to come up short.

MT lost to Samford Tuesday and Wednesday. Visit [www.mtsusidelines.com](http://www.mtsusidelines.com) for game recaps. ♦

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